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CLAIMS:

1.   A translation information segment associated with an electronic communication:

5   said translation information segment including global parameters for effecting a translation of said electronic communication or a part or parts thereof from a source language to one or more target languages; and

          said translation information segment being identified and actioned 10 by an application reading the electronic communication to extract the translation parameters to obtain the translation of the electronic communication from said source language to said one or more target languages.

2.   A translation information segment according to claim 1 wherein the 15 translation information segment is embedded in the electronic communication or attached to the electronic communication.

3.   A translation information segment according to claim 1 wherein the translation information segment is stored in an accessible database and a pointer or pointers are either embedded or attached to the translatable 20 electronic communication.

4.   A translation information segment according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the global parameters are selected from parameters including: source language, encoding, tense, available translation, translation engine, dictionary, glossary, context, translation service, rules 25 for processing tags, rules for processing components within the electronic communication such as pictures, graphics, sound, animation video, software, programmable routines, rules for performing translation, location of existing translations, location of existing localized components of said electronic communication such as pictures, graphics, sound, animation,

video, software, programmable routines; individual translator, and translation memory.

5.   A translation information segment according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein two or more parameters of the TIS act cooperatively to translate a part or parts of said electronic communication.

6.   A translation information segment according to any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein the application actioning the translation information segment includes a web browser for web pages, or an email program for email, or a word processor for text documents.

7.   A translation information segment according to any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein the application actioning the translation information segment is a purpose specific application that detects and actions the translation information segment.

8.   A translation information segment according to any one of claims 1 to 7 wherein there are two or more translation information segments associated with said electronic communication.

9.   A translation information segment according to claim 8 wherein each translation information segment includes parameters for translation of a portion of the electronic communication associated with the translation information segment.

10.   A translation information segment associated with an electronic communication, said translation information segment being identified and actioned by an application reading the electronic communication and comprising at least one of: a pointer to a translation of the electronic communication; a pointer to location of existing translations, a pointer to location of existing localized components of said electronic communication such as pictures, graphics, sound, animation, video, software, programmable routines; a pointer to rules for performing the translation; a pointer to rules for processing components within the electronic communication such as pictures, graphics, sound, animation, video,

software, programmable routines; a pointer to a translation engine for translating the electronic communication; a pointer to dictionaries, glossaries, or terminology databases; or a pointer to a human translator skilled in translating the electronic communication.

5   11.   A translation information segment according to claim 10 wherein the pointer to a translation of the electronic communication is a universal resource locator and a list of pointers point to different language translations.

12.   A translation information segment according to claim 10 wherein
10   the translation information segment includes a list of translation parameters or a pointer to a file containing a list of translation parameters.

13.   A translation information segment according to claim 12 wherein the translation parameters are readable by a translation engine or a human translator to improve the quality of translation.

15   14.   A method of providing a translated communication to a recipient of a foreign language communication including the steps of:

associating a translation information segment with the foreign language communication;

transmitting the foreign language communication and translation
20   information segment to a receiver;

parsing the foreign language communication to identify and analyze the translation information segment; and

obtaining a translation of the foreign language communication according to parameters in the translation information segment.

25   15.   A method of providing a translated communication to a recipient of a foreign language communication according to claim 14 wherein, a translation is requested from a browser, and the translation information segment information is extracted from the communication and forwarded to a translation manager along with a translation request.

16.   A method of providing a translated communication to a recipient of a foreign language communication according to claim 14 wherein,

when a browser receives a communication to display, it first checks the translation information segment to ensure the language is correct before displaying, and

if said language is not correct then the browser requests a translation from a translation manager.

17.   A method of providing a translated communication to a recipient of a foreign language communication according to claim 14 wherein,

a web server obtains a users preferred language and compares it to the translation information segment, and if it does not match, then,

the web server requests the communication to be translated and provides the relevant details from the translation information segment to the translation manager.